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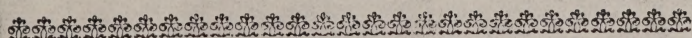


Bruton Parish Church

A BRIEF HISTORY

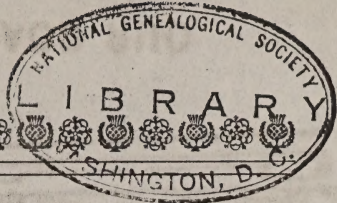


WITH A MAP AND KEY LIST OF TOMBSTONES
IN THE CHURCH AND YARD.



WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

Va.



Bruton Parish Church, A Brief History

THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT AND THE EARLIER CHURCHES

TIME, in its passing, leaves memorials to mark the coming and going of the centuries. Old Bruton Parish Church has stood through the centuries as a symbol of many things, and has come to us as an hallowed trust, enriched by spiritual associations and historic traditions.

Middle Plantation (subsequently named Williamsburg) was "laid out and paled in" about 1632 and shortly thereafter a parish of that name was formed. In 1658 Harrop parish and Middle Plantation parish were combined by act of assembly to form the new parish of Middletown. Records of York County show that a church, constructed for the new parish, was probably completed by 1660.

Marston (York County) and Middletown parishes were united by 1674, probably by act of assembly, and the consolidated parish was called Bruton. This name was presumably derived from Bruton, County Somerset, England, from which came the Ludwell family and the then governor, Sir William Berkeley. Nothing is known of this Middletown Church, which then became the first Bruton Church, as to size, shape, location or building material. It possibly occupied the same site as the present church. The order of the vestry, Novem-



Briton Parish Church, A Brief History

THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT AND THE EARLIER CHURCHES

TIME, in its passing, leaves memorials to mark the coming and going of the centuries. Old Briton Parish Church has stood through the centuries as a symbol of many things, and has come to us as an hallowed trust, cherished by spiritual associations and historic traditions.

Middle Plantation (subsequently named Williamsburg) was "laid out and patented" about 1672 and shortly thereafter a parish of that name was formed. In 1678 Harrop parish and Middle Plantation parish were combined by act of assembly to form the new parish of Middletown. Records of York County show that a church, consecrated for the new parish, was probably completed by 1680.

Milton (York County) and Middletown parishes were united by 1674, probably by act of assembly, and the consolidated parish was called Briton. This name was presumably derived from Briton, County Somerset, England, from which came the Ludwell family and the then governor, Sir William Berkeley. Nothing is known of this Middletown Church, which then became the first Briton Church, as to size, shape, location or building material. It possibly occupied the same site as the present church. The order of the vestry, Novem-

ber, 1677, that a new church at Middle Plantation be built of brick implies that the earlier church was a wooden structure.

This second Bruton Church was built on land donated by Col. John Page "together with sixty feet of the same every way for a churchyard." In 1681 a contract was let to Capt. Francis Page to build the church which was completed in 1683. There has been discovered recently in Bruton Parish churchyard the foundation of an early brick church, apparently Gothic, the location of which conforms to Colonel Page's gift and to Theodorick Bland's survey of the new town of Williamsburg, made in 1699, showing the site of the church.

By October, 1706, the condition of the church had become so unsatisfactory and the cost of repairs so great that the vestry ordered that a new church be built.

BRUTON BECOMES THE COURT CHURCH OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA

When the seat of government of the Colony was transferred from Jamestown to Williamsburg, the new capital, Bruton became the Court Church of Colonial Virginia. Naturally, therefore, the vestry expected the government to lend assistance in providing a more suitable building and in 1710 they petitioned the House of Burgesses for financial aid. The House accordingly agreed to appropriate the money necessary to build pews for the Governor, the Council and the Burgesses.

At a meeting on March 1, 1711, the Reverend James Blair, Rector, submitted to the vestry for Governor Alexander Spotswood "a platt or draught of a church (whose length 75 foot,

and bredth 28 foot in the clear, with two wings on each side whose width is 22 foot), which he laid before the Vestry for approbation. Adding further that ye Honble ye Governor proposed to the Vestry to build only 53 foot and that he would take care for the remaining part . . . which is approved of." This church was practically completed by December, 1715, and has remained in use to the present time.

By 1752, in spite of the addition of galleries, the church was inadequate to accommodate the congregation, and it was therefore decided to enlarge the building. Consequently twenty-five feet were added to the chancel end, bringing the church to its present inside length of 100 feet. An organ was presumably bought at the same time. In 1755 an organ loft was built, probably in the new chancel end, and Mr. Peter Pelham was unanimously chosen organist. The churchyard wall ordered at the same time was completed in 1754.

The completion of the present form of Bruton Parish Church during colonial days was accomplished by the building in 1769 of the new steeple, to replace one previously built. That this tower or steeple was added after the completion of the church is shown by the fact that it is a separate structure. It now contains the "Liberty Bell" of Virginia given to the parish in 1761 by James Tarpley.

It seems probable that the gallery in the west end was provided when the church was built. The greater part of it was assigned to the College of William and Mary for the "use of the Colledge youth." The gallery in the south transept was built as a private one in 1720 by Mr. John Holloway. The date of the gallery in the north transept is unknown.

It was used by the colored servants of the parish, and was entered by a covered outside stairway built against the transept's west wall.

COLONIAL INTERIOR CHANGED IN 1840

The colonial interior of the church was almost completely destroyed in 1840 by a rearrangement. The old nave was partitioned off just west of the third window from the tower, thus turning the church around and placing the altar against the new partition in the west end. A new entrance was cut in the east wall and the old western part used for a Sunday School.

RESTORATION OF 1905-07

Through the devoted and untiring efforts of the rector, the Reverend Dr. W. A. R. Goodwin, assisted by Mr. J. Stewart Barney, architect, the church was partially restored to its ancient glory in 1905-07.

RESTORATION PERFECTED 1938-39

In 1938-39, under the authority of the vestry, partly with funds secured by Doctor Goodwin from about six hundred friends of Bruton, and partly through the generosity of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., with the coöperation of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, architects, and the Architectural and Construction Departments of Williamsburg Restoration, Inc., in consultation with the vestry, the church was restored to its present condition.

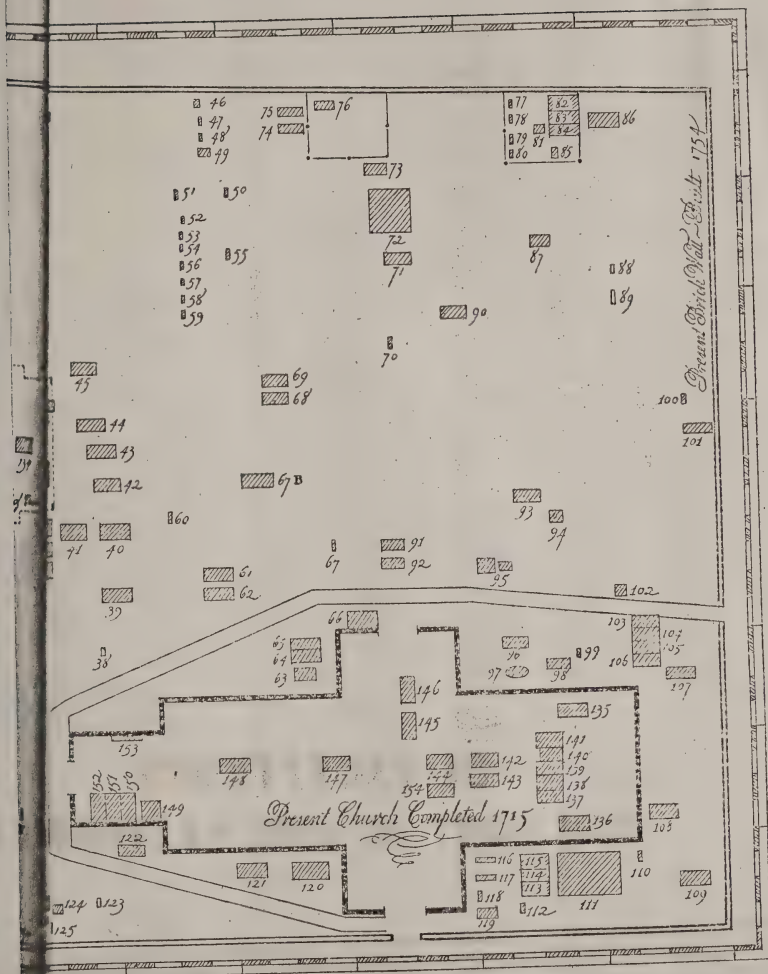
MEMORIALS OF THE PAST

Among the treasures in possession of Bruton Parish Church are: the Pre-Revolutionary Prayer Book, stamped on

the binding "Bruton Parish 1752," in which the prayer for the President of the United States is pasted over the prayer for King George; the Pre-Revolutionary Bible, 1753; the old Parish Register of baptisms and deaths dating back to 1662; the Baptismal Font which tradition says was brought to Bruton Parish Church from Jamestown when the seat of government was changed to Williamsburg in 1699; the Jamestown Communion Service brought to Bruton when Jamestown was abandoned; the Queen Anne Service, presented to the College of William and Mary by Lady Gooch; the King George III Service; a book of Common Prayer in which the prayer for the President of the United States is scratched out, and on the margin is written "April 17, 1861, the Governor of Virginia"; the Bible presented by King Edward VII in 1907 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Church of England in America at Jamestown in 1607; the prayer desk Bible presented by President Woodrow Wilson; and the bronze lectern given by President Theodore Roosevelt to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the establishment of English civilization at Jamestown in 1607.

In the church and churchyard are buried two colonial governors, a justice of the Supreme Court, and many others of prominence in the church, state and nation.





THE CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

seen on the following Pages.)

Jones, (Reverend) Rowland
 Wilmer, (Reverend) William H.
 Jones, (Reverend) Orlando
 Jennings, (Acting Governor) Edward

143. Coeke, (Doctor) William
 145. Fauquier, (Governor) Francis
 146. Pendleton, (Judge) Edmund
 154. Goodwin, (Reverend) William A. R.



*A Key to the Guide Map of the Tombstones in
Bruton Parish Church, Tower and Churchyard*

IN THE CHURCHYARD

1. Sweeney, Mordecai Talbot, and Anne Elizabeth	1875, 1867
2. Westwood, Mary E.	1869
3. Lawton, John	1862
4. Coleman Family	
5. Coleman, Catharine Brooke	1883
6. Beale, Truxton	1936
7. Hord, Robert H.	1845
*8. Skipwith, Elizabeth Byrd	1819
9. Powell, Annabell	1782
10. Grinley, James	1763
11. Stephenson, Catherine A.	1852
12. Goodwin, William Archer	1907
13. Goodwin, Evelyn Tannor	1915
14. Durfey, Margaret W.	1865
15. Durfey, Altazera E. and Thomas G.	1835, 1847
16. Marnix, Benjamin F.	1888
17. Jones, Millicent	1751
18. Stith, Buckner and Catharine	1766
Blaikley, Catharine	1771
19. Southgate, Richard	1828
20. Morrison, Emily	1887
21. Christian, Susan M. and William T.	1888, 1891
22. Christian, Jane Sophia	1920
23. Galt, Mary Arnet, 1854, William T., Jr., Sally T., Gabriella V.	

Galt, John M., Sr., Judith Craig

Galt, Alexander D., Mary, John M., Elizabeth D.,
Alexander, Sally Maria

Brooks, Sally, housekeeper

Williamson, John Galt and Mary D. Galt

Harrison, Colonel and Mrs. Randolph

24. Confederate Soldier	1862
25. Confederate Soldier	1862
26. Hornsby, Thomas and Margaret	1772, 1770
27. Nott, (Governor) Edward	1705
28. Bray, David and Judith	1717, 1720
29. Bray, David and Elizabeth	1731, 1734
30. Morecock, William Beverley	1890
31. Snow, Ann	1855
32. Randolph, David Meade	1830
33. Thorp, Katherine	1695
34. Page, Mary Diggs	1691
35. Page, Francis	1692
36. Page, Alice	1698
37. Page, (Colonel) John	1692
38. Hunt, Charles	1794
39. Dixon, Mary E.	1836
40. Whaley, James and Mathew	1701, 1705
41. Page, Elizabeth	1702
42. Bray, James	1690
43. Thorp, (Captain) Thomas	1693
44. No inscription	
45. Burwell, Thomas H. N.	1841
46. Ward, George T.	1862
47. Humphrey, (Captain) A. J.	1862
48. Addison, (Lieutenant) John F.	1862
49. Confederate Monument	
50. Dehart, Mary Mildred	1839
51. Wyatt, John W.	1849
52. McCann, Mary L.	1846
53. Confederate Soldier	1862
54. Confederate Soldier	1862
55. Dix, James H.	1861
56. Confederate Soldier	1862
57. Confederate Soldier	1862

58. Confederate Soldier	1862
59. Confederate Soldier	1862
60. Dyer, Edward	1722
61. Brown, Margaret and Jane	1720
62. Brown, (Dr.) John	1726
63. No inscription	
*64. Custis, Frances Park	1715
*65. Custis, Daniel Park and Frances Park	1754
*66. Ludwell, Thomas	1678
67. Nicholson, Mary	1795
68. Griffin, Sarah	1846
69. Griffin, (Lady) Christina Stuart	1807
70. Williams, Eliza	1829
71. Briggs, Seth S. and Susan L. W.	1812, 1815
72. Camm, (Dr.) Edward, Eliza and William	
73. Purdie, Mary	1772
74. Jones, Scervant	1854
75. Jones, Ann Timson	1849
76. Millington, John	1868
Letts, Elizabeth	1847
77. Garrett, Robert Winder	1838
78. Garrett, R. M.	1885
79. Garrett, S. C.	1878
80. Garrett, H. W.	1879
81. Garrett Family	
82. Garrett, Comfort Anna and Susan W.	1854
83. Garrett, Lottie C.	1930
84. Garrett, Mary Winder	1930
85. Garrett, Van Franklin	1932
86. Nelson, Susan Garrett	1935
87. Powell, Peter T. and Louisiana T.	1863, 1907
88. Cogbill, Thomas O.	1858
89. Lang, John	1738
90. Orr, Hugh	1764
91. Savage, Lauretta A. W.	1879
92. Savage, Thomas Lyttleton	1855
93. Rae, Robert	1753

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94. Coke, Eliza H.	1868
95. Semple Family and Servant	1819-1907
96. Greenhow, Judith	1765
97. Greenhow, John and Elizabeth	1787, 1781
98. Wilmer, Ann B.	1854
99. Bingham, Elizabeth	1851
100. Abbott, Virginia	1830
101. Cabaniss, James	1837
102. Wise, (Dr.) Henry A.	
103. Henderson, Elizabeth P.	1813
104. Henderson, Jane Blair and children	1800
105. Blair, Jean and James	1792, 1791
106. Blair, (Justice) John	1800
107. Henderson, Thomas H.	1814
108. Archer, Michael and Joanna	1726, 1732
109. Barradall, Edward and Sara	1743
110. Bowcock, Henry	1730
111. Smith, Sydney, Virginia C. and Henry B.	1884, 1878, 1906
Joyner, Lucy C.	1878
Neel, Mary Eliza	1905
112. Keith, Margaret	1733
113. Dugger, Lutie	1870
114. Bucktrout, Benjamin E.	1849
115. Bucktrout, Benjamin E.	1846
116. Carpenter, Delia Wooten	
117. Wooten, Richard	
118. Bucktrout, Delia	1857
Bucktrout, Josiah N., R. M. and H. N.	1836, 1847, 1854
119. Bucktrout, Richard M.	1867
120. Yuille, John	1746
121. Collett, John	1749
122. Nicholson, James	1773
123. Washington, Lucy and Sarah	1854, 1862
124. Tucker, Nathaniel B. and Lucy Ann S.	1851, 1867
125. Smith, Reuben	1843
126. Burgess, Ann	1771
127. Scrivenger, Joseph	1772

128. Charlton, Ann	1744
129. Lindsay, Edward B.	1855
130. Lindsay, Sarah W.	1850
131. Gilliam, Annie B.	1900
132. Lindsay, George Bascom	1860
133. Glows, Margaret F.	1853
134. Frank, Ann	1759

IN THE CHURCH

135. Jones, (Rev.) Rowland	1688
136. Wilmer, (Rev.) William H.	1827
137. R. P.	1730
138. Jones, Martha M.	
139. Jones, Orlando	1719
140. Blair, James, Anne and Archibald	1740, 1741, 1744
141. Monro, Christian	1725
Blair, Mary and Sarah	1730, 1735
142. Jenings, (Acting Governor) Edmund	1727
143. Cocke, (Dr.) William	1720
144. Prentis, Mrs.	
145. Fauquier, (Governor) Francis	1768
146. Pendleton, Edmund	1803
147. Hacker, Henry	1742
148. P. G.	
154. Goodwin, (Rev.) William A. R.	1939

IN THE TOWER

*149. Page, John	1692
*150. Timson, Anna Maria and William	1734, 1736
*151. Timson, Elizabeth	1735
*152. Timson, Samuel and Mary	—, 1702
*153. Bacon, Nathaniel	1692

*Not buried here.

The above list includes only the few whose tombstones remain. Many stones have disintegrated, and all visible traces of the graves have been lost.

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Founded 1736

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